PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

President : I have to announce that, under Rule 3 (1) of the Travancore Legislative Rules, I have nominated Mr. M. Govindan and Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai to the Panel of Chairmen for this session of the Council.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

DEMAND I—EDUCATION.

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan : Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 38,644 under Demand I—Education.

This grant is required for the payment of compensation to the managements of private schools which have suffered a serious loss of income as a result of the recent reduction of fees. I need not dwell at length on the circumstances which led to the recent reduction. I believe members of this House are fully aware of them. I would say that from the trend of the speeches made during the budget discussion in the two Houses, Government felt convinced that public opinion was very strongly in favour of providing some immediate relief for the people of Travancore at this time of economic depression by way of remission of land revenue and reduction of fees. Immediately after the close of the budget session, the Dewan acted with promptitude and courage. He summoned a conference of the principal officers. As a result of the deliberations of this conference very substantial reductions in school fees were effected. These reductions have been effected in English Middle Schools, to the extent of 33 1/3 per cent., in Vernacular Schools to the extent of 25 per cent., and in High Schools from 15 to 20 per cent. On account of this reduction the managements of schools, especially the larger and more important managements whose educational activities cover the whole State, were seriously perturbed. They made representations. They went on deputations before the Dewan. And they passed various resolutions in their meetings and associations. They had, it seemed to Government, a fair and just case for compensation. The schools, which were working under a deficit even before the reduction of fees was sanctioned, were far more seriously and vitally affected. They complained that this reduction had come upon them suddenly and unexpectedly and that they would not be able to run their schools under these conditions without serious and drastic reduction of the salaries of their teachers. The fact that this reduction was made without giving previous intimation to the managers of schools aggravated the situation. The fact that this reduction came in the middle of the year after these large managements had prepared their budgets and estimated their income and expenditure was another serious handicap. For these reasons, Government thought that compensation

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